



Southwestern Idaho News

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Boise-Nampa Metropolitan Statistical Area's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly to 2.2 percent in June from 2.1 percent in May. The June rate was seven-tenths of a point below June 2006, and 8,400 more people were working. The decrease in both labor force and total employment from May is largely due to schools letting out for the summer. Many of those education workers drop out of the labor force while on summer vacation, explaining the seasonal declines in total employment and labor force. While the unemployment rate in the metropolitan area increased slightly in June, it still remains well below the 4 percent rate commonly considered full employment.

June saw new jobs in many sectors led by construction, health care, manufacturing and the hospitality industries, more than enough to offset the seasonal loss of 1,800 jobs in public and private education.

Nonfarm jobs are still increasing at a brisk annual pace. The year-over-year

Southwestern Idaho Table 2: June 2007 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwestern Idaho Counties

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unemployed	Percent Unemployed	Number Employed
Ada	199,362	4,030	2.0%	195,332
Adams	2,014	81	4.0%	1,933
Boise	4,227	87	2.1%	4,140
Canyon	83,378	2,091	2.5%	81,287
Elmore	11,328	359	3.2%	10,969
Gem	7,428	210	2.8%	7,218
Owyhee	4,667	94	2.0%	4,572
Payette	10,039	265	2.6%	9,774
Valley	5,608	142	2.5%	5,466
Washington	5,000	139	2.8%	4,862
Statewide	754,944	18,504	2.5%	736,440

Southwestern Idaho Table 1: Boise City-Nampa MSA Labor Force & Employment (Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties)

	Jun 2007*	May 2007	Jun 2006	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	299,700	300,700	293,400	-0.3	2.1
Unemployment	6,500	6,300	8,600	3.2	-24.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.2	2.1	2.9		
Total Employment	293,200	294,400	284,800	-0.4	2.9
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	302,800	300,400	295,600	0.8	2.4
Unemployment	6,200	5,000	8,400	24.0	-26.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.0	1.7	2.8		
Total Employment	296,600	295,400	287,200	0.4	3.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	282,300	281,900	270,700	0.1	4.3
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	58,100	57,300	57,600	1.4	0.9
Natural Resources & Construction	26,100	25,500	25,900	2.4	0.8
Construction	25,800	25,200	25,500	2.4	1.2
Manufacturing	32,000	31,800	31,700	0.6	0.9
Durable Goods	25,900	25,800	25,400	0.4	2.0
Wood Product Manufacturing	2,600	2,600	2,700	0.0	-3.7
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	1,800	1,700	1,500	5.9	20.0
Machinery Manufacturing	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Computer & Electronic Manufacturing	15,200	15,200	14,900	0.0	2.0
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	2,600	2,600	2,300	0.0	13.0
Other Durable Goods	2,400	2,400	2,700	0.0	-11.1
Nondurable Goods	6,100	6,000	6,300	1.7	-3.2
Food Manufacturing	4,300	4,200	4,300	2.4	0.0
Printing & Related Support Activities	700	700	700	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	1,100	1,100	1,300	0.0	-15.4
SERVICE-PROVIDING INDUSTRIES	224,200	224,600	213,100	-0.2	5.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	54,800	54,500	51,500	0.6	6.4
Trade	47,000	46,800	44,000	0.4	6.8
Wholesale Trade	12,300	12,300	12,100	0.0	1.7
Wholesalers, Durable Goods	6,900	6,900	7,000	0.0	-1.4
Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	3,800	3,900	3,600	-2.6	5.6
Retail Trade	34,700	34,500	31,900	0.6	8.8
Food & Beverage Stores	4,600	4,500	4,600	2.2	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	7,300	7,400	6,100	-1.4	19.7
All Other Retail Trade	22,800	22,600	21,200	0.9	7.5
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	7,800	7,700	7,500	1.3	4.0
Utilities	700	700	600	0.0	16.7
Transportation & Warehousing	7,100	7,000	6,900	1.4	2.9
Information	4,800	4,800	4,700	0.0	2.1
Telecommunications	1,300	1,300	1,400	0.0	-7.1
Financial Activities	15,300	15,300	14,300	0.0	7.0
Finance & Insurance	10,800	10,700	10,000	0.9	8.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	4,500	4,600	4,300	-2.2	4.7
Professional & Business Services	41,300	41,100	40,500	0.5	2.0
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	11,900	11,800	11,800	0.8	0.8
Management of Companies & Ent.	5,600	5,600	5,800	0.0	-3.4
Administrative & Support & Waste Mgmt.	23,800	23,700	22,900	0.4	3.9
Educational & Health Services	32,900	33,000	31,600	-0.3	4.1
Educational Services	2,400	2,900	2,200	-17.2	9.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	30,500	30,100	29,400	1.3	3.7
Hospitals	9,800	9,800	9,500	0.0	3.2
Leisure & Hospitality	25,000	24,500	23,900	2.0	4.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	3,500	3,200	3,500	9.4	0.0
Accommodation & Food Services	21,500	21,300	20,400	0.9	5.4
Accommodation	2,400	2,400	2,200	0.0	9.1
Food Services & Drinking Places	19,100	18,900	18,200	1.1	4.9
Other Services	7,900	7,800	6,700	1.3	17.9
Total Government	42,200	43,600	39,900	-3.2	5.8
Federal Government	5,900	5,800	5,900	1.7	0.0
State & Local Government	36,300	37,800	34,000	-4.0	6.8
State Government	12,700	14,000	12,700	-9.3	0.0
State Government Education	3,600	4,600	3,700	-21.7	-2.7
State Government Administration	9,100	9,400	9,000	-3.2	1.1
Local Government	23,600	23,800	21,300	-0.8	10.8
Local Government Education	15,200	15,500	13,100	-1.9	16.0
Local Government Administration	8,400	8,300	8,200	1.2	2.4

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

gain was 11,600 for the metropolitan area in June, an increase of 4.3 percent. The recent layoffs at Micron will likely not be reflected in the numbers until August since job figures are compiled toward the beginning of the month and the layoffs occurred after the survey week in June. Retail trade added 200 more jobs as Nampa's Treasure Valley Marketplace continued to have new tenants open nearly every week. The June 2007 civilian labor force and total employment figures for all 10 counties in southwestern Idaho are shown in Table 2 on page 15.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

BOISE/NAMPA MSA

- Pharmaceutical company RxElite has announced plans to move from Meridian to Nampa near the Amalgamated sugar factory. RxElite employs 50 people but wants more room to expand to possibly 100 employees in a fairly short time. RxElite's new building includes a headquarters office, a distribution center and a warehouse. Ultimately, the company would like to add manufacturing for the medical products it currently develops.
- A new 126,000-square-foot hospital will open in 2009 on land leased from the city of Boise. The 24 doctors, who are building the \$45 million facility, should get their building permit in August. Riverside Medical Center will offer a wide array of medical and surgical services with the exceptions of trauma, pediatrics, neonatal care and obstetrics.
- The minimum wage officially increased on July 24 to \$5.85 per hour from \$5.15. The increase is not expected to have a large impact since only a small percentage of area businesses were paying employees less than \$5.85. The tight labor force has made it difficult to find competent workers at such low wages. About 25 percent of workers earning below the new minimum wage were waiters and waitresses.
- The Nampa Gateway Center now has its first store open for business. JC Penney's grand opening for its 103,000-square-foot store was Aug. 3. The Nampa Gateway Center still has many buildings under construction. Once complete it will have 800,000 square feet of retail space.
- The Idaho Business Review recently published its list of the most expensive construction projects in the state. The Nampa Gateway Center, where the new JC Penney is located, topped the list at \$100 million. The first phase of the Treasure Valley Marketplace also ranked high on the list at \$20.6 million.
- Alternate Energy Holdings, the developer of a proposed nuclear power plant in Owyhee County near Bruneau, has filed an application with county commissioners for a conditional use permit. The 125-day deadline for this application has been removed due to its complexity and to allow ample time for public hearings and comments. If approved, Alternate Energy Holdings will have to go through a costly licensing process with the federal government that will likely take years.
- The city of Eagle is negotiating to purchase Eagle Water Co. for \$6.3 million, probably financed by a bond. City officials say the purchase would make the city's water supply more efficient and safer. Eagle Water serves 3,400 customers.
- Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center will be opening express care clinics in two Albertsons grocery stores and three Rite Aid drug stores in Ada and Canyon counties. The clinics will serve those without health insurance, charging \$45 for a 15 minute visit. Minor ailments will be primarily treated by a nurse practitioner or a physician assistant. The first of the clinics is scheduled to be open by Labor Day.
- After a significant loss of over \$275 million in its second and third quarters, Micron Technology permanently laid off 982 people in July and will be laying off another 130 by the end of August. The company also expects to cut an additional 5 percent of its local payroll over the next eight months.
- The city of Marsing recently broke ground on a 4,700-square-foot library that will nearly double the size of the current library. The new facility is scheduled to open in 2008 at a cost of \$775,000 to be paid by a library bond.
- Boise State University has received \$4 million in donations for construction of its new health sciences building. One million dollars each came from St. Luke's Health System and Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center and the remaining \$2 million was donated by Norco Inc. through the Kissler Family Foundation. The new health sciences building is expected to cost \$25 million with the rest of the money coming from student fees. Once the building is completed, Boise State will be able to increase enrollment in its nursing program by 30 percent.
- A new mixed-use development is going up in Meridian. It will include a seven-story hotel, two medical office buildings, a large retail building, a bank and

restaurants as well as a pharmacy. The first of the buildings is scheduled for completion next spring.

ELMORE COUNTY

- Atlanta Gold has begun Phase I of a preliminary drilling program at its gold mines located in Atlanta. Drilling during this phase alone is expected to cost Atlanta Gold \$700,000 and will consist of taking core samples from 300 feet below ground level. Samples will then be analyzed and phase II drilling will commence in areas where favorable results were found. Drilling is expected to continue for the rest of the year.

PAYETTE COUNTY

- Ground has been broken on the road connecting the future site of the new Hanigan Motors auto mall with Highway 30 near Exit 3 on Interstate 84. The new road is being partially funded by a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant and will be responsible for creating 30 new full-time jobs. The new auto dealership is scheduled to open by fall 2008.
- Construction crews have finished the new Fruitland Elementary School. The 75,000-square-foot school will open for classes this fall. There will be open houses and tours in September.

VALLEY COUNTY

- Valley County recently started its first free transit service. Valley County Connections will operate throughout the county with stops in McCall, Donnelly, Lake Fork, Cascade and Tamarack Resort. The bus will be equipped with bike and ski racks. This service is being funded by a federal grant with matching contributions from the private sector.
- The McCall Memorial Hospital is currently conducting a future planning assessment of health care throughout the region for the next 15 years. In anticipation of the need to expand, McCall Memorial paid \$218,000 for some land adjacent to its parking lot, bringing to \$1.7 million its property purchases since 2002.
- The AmericInn Lodge and Suites recently held a grand opening in McCall for its new 66-room facility. The AmericInn is the newest hotel to open in

Valley County to serve the area's growing tourist industry.

ADAMS COUNTY

- The Council Rod & Gun Club has received a \$7,500 grant from the National Rifle Association to improve the facility by replacing the roof of the clubhouse and drilling a new well. Council's Rod and Gun Club was one recipient in Idaho of \$145,000 the NRA awarded to various clubs and programs.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

- Robert Weed Plywood Corp., which not too long ago purchased Weiser Products Inc. and kept its 20 employees, has announced plans to add 30 more people over the next year. The company has landed some new customers and needs more workers to meet demand for decorative moldings and laminated paneling commonly used in manufactured homes and recreational vehicles.
- Meyer Industries of Midvale has been named the U.S. Small Business Administration's Small Business Exporter of the Year. Meyer Industries makes the Rodenator Pro, a tool used to exterminate gophers and other burrowing rodents. It works by injecting a mixture of propane and oxygen into the hole and igniting it and sending a shock wave that kills the rodents and collapses their tunnels. Meyer Industries currently employs 10 people in Midvale and has 15 sales representatives across the world. The Rodenator Pro is sold in the United States, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Canada, some Middle Eastern countries and Mexico. Meyer Industries has plans to offer a smaller version of the Rodenator Pro this fall for homeowners.
- Canadian-based Freegold Ventures Ltd. is preparing an economic analysis of further gold deposits at the old Mercury Mine just north of Weiser. In a private stock offering, Freegold raised \$5 million to fund the test drilling and assessment.

John Panter, Regional Economist
205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 364-7785, ext. 3599
E-mail: john.panter@labor.idaho.gov